

PLAGUE OF FIRE.

Lives and Property Lost in Flames at Louisville.

Girl Employees of a Big Candy Factory Burned to Death.

Four Firemen Crushed Beneath Falling Warehouse Walls.

Three Disastrous Conflagrations Break Out in Twelve Hours.

(BY ASSOCIATED PRESS.)

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Dec. 9.—While the firemen were raking away the ruins left by last night's \$50,000 blaze at the Boone Paper Company's building at 4:30 this morning, there came the sound of a terrific explosion in the building on the corner of Third and Main streets.

This was the Bamberger, Strong & Company Building, four stories high. On the instant flames broke from every floor and shot through the roof. Fire must have been smoldering for several hours in the cellars, and when each of the four stories had become filled with heated air and smoke an explosion followed.

Before the fire could be extinguished the wholesale book and shoe house of Bamberger, Strong & Co., Biss, Wilson & Co.'s general furnishing and notions, Weller, Woolcott & Payne's book and stationery, and John A. Biss's hats had been consumed.

The losses and insurance were as follows: Bamberger, Strong & Co., loss \$150,000, insurance \$100,000; Biss, Wilson & Co., loss \$50,000, insurance \$75,000; Weller, Woolcott & Payne, loss \$75,000, insurance \$100,000; John A. Biss, loss \$50,000, insurance \$75,000.

A number of people were sleeping in the upper rooms of the buildings but all escaped. One fireman is missing and he may have been crushed by a falling wall.

Later—Later information shows that a number of firemen all killed and four others were injured. Four dead firemen lay under the walls and four others are badly hurt.

The dead firemen are William Moore, William Davis, Samuel Baker and Tony Schlicht.

STILL ANOTHER FATAL FIRE.

At 8 o'clock another fatal fire was raging in F. A. Menn & Co.'s wholesale candy and fancy goods house, a square above the Boone Paper Co.'s building. The origin is a mystery.

Forty girls were at work wrapping candy on the fourth floor and all were not able to escape.

The fire was out at 11 o'clock and the work of taking out the bodies began. The bodies of six girls have already been taken out, burned beyond identification.

One of the girls, a young member of the firm, is supposed to have been burned to death. The fire broke out of escape by the stairs leading to the fourth floor, where the girls were at work.

Many jumped from the windows to a second-story projection, and many others were killed and bruised bodies. Others got out unhurt.

CHIEF HUGHES HURT.

To add to the casualties and the confusion Major Hughes, chief of the Fire Department, was badly hurt in an accident early this morning that he nearly lost his life.

He and Henry Weatherwood, the chiefs of the fire department, were taken to the hospital. The latter was taken to the hospital and the former was taken to the hospital.

The salvage corps wagon ran into their buggy as they were rapidly driving up the north side of the street and almost literally ran over them. The buggy was smashed and the horses trampled on both Chief Hughes and Weatherwood.

The latter's wrist was badly hurt, but when the chief called out for help and that he was badly hurt, Weatherwood was able to go to his assistance. Major Hughes was taken to his bed, and the doctors are unable to say anything of his condition.

Weatherwood, with a badly damaged and much bandaged hand, was able to do as much as he could.

Going to the fire the No. 13 engine ran into the pavement at Twelfth street and Broadway, and was overturned, with broken wheels, and the engine was damaged.

Pat Shea, a member of the No. 1 Hook and Ladder Company, was at work on the building occupied by Frank A. Menn & Co. He started to fall, but was caught by the broken skylight. He saved himself from probably a fatal plunge, but nearly severed his hand from his arm.

FIRE AMONG FIREWORKS.

The candy factory fire is supposed to have arisen from one of the candy furnaces which possibly exploded.

At any rate the flames communicated with the new and big stock of Christmas fireworks. The first explosion among them scattered the fire brands in the shape of burning fireworks all over the store.

The eight-story building and the entire stock, much of which was highly inflammable, was severely blazing. The flames were so high that they were visible from the city.

Two other fires broke out in the city, one at the corner of Main and Third streets, and another at the corner of Main and Fourth streets.

The loss on Menn & Co.'s building and stock is placed at \$75,000. The total loss will be three quarters of a million. The fire was stopped at George W. Wicks & Co.'s cotton-bale house.

Three of the dead girls have just been identified as Mary Walsh, of 204 Eleventh street; Barbara Bell and Amelia Kelly.

Two other girls are supposed to be those of Lou Kern and Clara Hensch. The fourth body taken from the Menn & Co. wreck is supposed to be that of Charles Kimmel, partner in the firm.

The injured and the fire Chief Edward Hughes, concussion of skull; Little Greenwell, cut on head and back about the body; George W. Wicks, head and hands burned and bruised; Kate McGarvey, leg broken and perhaps fatally injured; and George W. Wicks, head and hands burned about the face and hands; Pat Shea, fireman, hand cut nearly off.

NEW RICHMOND, WIS., BURNING.

An Engine Sent from St. Paul to Help Fight the Fire.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Dec. 9.—The Fire Department received a telegram from the Mayor of New Richmond, Wis., this morning stating that at five minutes past midnight fire broke out in the main part of the place and so rapidly that it was feared the whole city would be burned down. The official asked for help and aid.

A message at 3 a. m. said that unless help arrived the whole west side of the town would be lost.

Most of the loss is covered by insurance. The loss cannot be accurately estimated, but will probably reach \$50,000.

FIREWORKS FACTORY BLOWN UP.

Two Men Killed and Several Injured at Roxbury, Mass.

ROXBURY, Mass., Dec. 9.—Bradfordville, a mining village, was visited last night by a fire which destroyed ten dwelling-houses, and \$25,000 in money in one of the houses. Total loss, \$25,000; little loss in life.

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CONGRESS LISTENS.

The President's Message Read to Both Houses To-Day.

More Interest, Though, in Gossip as to Crisp's Committees.

Ex-Speaker Reed to Be Minority Member on Rules.

(BY ASSOCIATED PRESS.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—In the House to-day, after the approval of the journal of yesterday's proceedings, the Committee appointed to wait upon the President, through its chairman, Mr. Blount, of Georgia, informed the Speaker that it had performed the duty imposed upon it, and that the President would send a communication in writing this morning.

A recess was taken for fifteen minutes. After the recess Speaker Turner performed his first public duty in his new field of labor, by announcing the presence of Mr. Pruden, one of the President's secretaries. Mr. Pruden delivered the annual Message of the President which was immediately read by the Speaker.

The reading of the annual Message in the House never received much attention, and this one proved no exception to the general rule. Many of the members left the hall, and those who remained attended to their correspondence or engaged in merry and at times hilarious conversation.

The only man who showed any interest in the Message was Mr. Blount, of Alabama; Miller, of Wisconsin, and Otis and Simpson, of Kansas.

On the completion of the reading of the Message, on motion of Mr. Outwater, of Ohio, referred to the Committee of the Whole and ordered printed.

Mr. Miller, of Wisconsin, offered a resolution requesting the Speaker in appointing the Committee to apportion the same among the several States and Territories according to population and to appoint at least a chairman from each State and Territory.

Mr. Miliken, of Maine, sarcastically expressed the hope that the Speaker would not be embarrassed by any new rules.

On motion of Mr. Holman the resolution was referred to Committee on Rules when appointed.

On motion of Mr. Holman the House then adjourned until Saturday, with the understanding that a further adjournment would be taken until Wednesday.

In the Senate, immediately after the reading of the journal, Mr. Sherman, from the committee to wait on the President and inform him that Congress was ready to receive any communication he might choose to make, reported that the committee had performed that duty, and had been informed that the President would send a communication in writing.

Ten minutes afterwards the annual Message of the President was presented by Mr. Pruden, one of his secretaries, was laid before the Senate and was read by Mr. McCook, its Secretary.

The reading of the message closed at 1.45, having consumed exactly an hour and a half. It was listened to throughout with close interest and attention by Senators and by a small audience in the galleries, comprising five gentlemen who occupied seats in the Diplomatic Gallery and who left as soon as the message began to read of exclusively domestic matters.

The message was ordered to be laid on the table and printed, and then the Senate adjourned until to-morrow.

Gossip About Committees.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—Talk about the probable formation of Speaker Crisp's committees has been more full of immediate interest here than the President's Message, the reading of which absorbed the attention of both Houses to-day.

The Committee on Rules is the first to be named, and it is likely that Springer or Holman will be chairman, with McMillin or Mills as the second Democrat and ex-Speaker Reed as the Republican member.

Mr. Reed is expected to be a member of the Committee on Appropriations, and Mr. Reed is expected to be a member of the Committee on Appropriations.

There is to-day, however, heard the expression of an idea that the conservative Crisp will be chairman of the Committee on Appropriations.

Judge Holman is mentioned in connection with the Appropriations Committee. It is believed that Mr. McMillin may be deemed the leader of the Committee on Appropriations.

Other speculations include the following chairmanships of leading House Committees: Agriculture, Mr. Hatch, of Missouri; Post-Office and Pensions, Mr. Chandler, of Louisiana; Naval Affairs, Mr. Herbert, of Alabama; Education, Mr. Peck, of Arkansas; Public Lands, Mr. McLean, of Arkansas; Invalid Pensions, Mr. Chandler, of Louisiana; Indian Affairs, Mr. Peck, of Arkansas; Foreign Affairs, Mr. McLean, of Arkansas; and the Committee on the Judiciary, Mr. Peck, of Arkansas.

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FOREIGN NEWS OF THE DAY.

Reparation Demanded for Killing of Frenchmen in Brazil.

No Money for Countess Russell Till She Apologizes to the Earl.

(BY ASSOCIATED PRESS.)

PARIS, Dec. 9.—It is claimed by the French Government that during the troubles growing out of the action of President Fonseca in dissolving the Brazilian Congress and assuming the dictatorship twelve Frenchmen were killed in Rio Janeiro by agents of Fonseca.

The French Consul at Rio Janeiro has been instructed by his Government to demand of the Brazilian Government reparation for the killing of these men.

Induence in Berlin and Hamburg—Curious Fact from France.

BERLIN, Dec. 9.—The *Medizinisch Wochenchrift* states that during the past week there have been 40,000 cases of influenza in Berlin. The death rate is not high, but thirty of the cases reported have resulted fatally.

The residents of Hamburg have become almost panic-stricken at the wide prevalence of the disease in that city. During the past week the deaths there have been 280 above the average.

The *Medizinisch Wochenchrift* cites as a curious feature of the disease in France the fact that in some parts of that country the schools and barracks are exempt from the ravages of influenza, while private houses are filled with the infection.

The only man who showed any interest in the Message was Mr. Blount, of Alabama; Miller, of Wisconsin, and Otis and Simpson, of Kansas.

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